REST

For a WEARIED SOUL,

Being, The LAST

LEGACY

Of Mr. JOHN BUNYAN of Bedfordſhire, containing, His dying Exhortations to his Children of their Duty to GOD, to their Mother, and to one another, not long before his Death. His Godly Meditations, when he lay upon his Death-bed; all which are very pleaſant to read, and profitable to practiſe; being of excellent uſe for all Sorts of People, that deſire to live a Godly Life in this preſent World.

The juſt Man walketh in his Integrity, his Children are bleſſed after him, Prov. xx. 7.

GLASGOW:

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A Reſt for a wearied SOUL,

OR, THE

Pilgrim at his Journey's End.

His Admonition to his Children, of their Duty to GOD, to their Mother, and to one another. Wrote ſome Time before his Death, and afterwards found among his Writings.

MY children I muſt now leave you, I am going to a better place, my glaſs is almoſt run: I hope I have made my peace with God; I have fought a good fight, and have finiſhed my courſe, and there is laid for me a crown of glory. In my youth I was as wild and ungodly I believe as moſt was, I ſpent my time idly, and never regarded what I did, ſo as I might pleaſe and ſatisfy my appetite: as to every particular of my life, it will be needleſs to nominate: and as to my converſion, you have read it in the book of my converſion, I have ſince my converſion, I thank God, taken great heed to my ways I haye lived as uprightly as I poſſibly could: for if I did any wrong, it was againſt my knowledge. I have wrote many good books, and have lived according to ſcripture rules, as much as fleſh and blood was able; I loved the worſt of my enemies, who caſt many falſe aſperſions upon me to diſgrace me, but thanks be to God, I owe no one any ill will, but heartily forgive all that have been my enemies, as I hope to be forgiven of almighty God. My dear children let me intreat you to be admoniſhed by my words, and take my exhortations as a legacy, I having as you know very little elſe to leave you. 1ſt, Then let me put you in mind of your duty to God; 2dly, your duty to your mother; and 3dly, to one another.

First, *Of your Duty to G O D.*

DRaw nighunto God, and he will draw nigh unto you, Jam iv. 8. This very exhortation of St James is enough to entice you, without any other. He tells you, that if you draw nigh unto God he will, draw nigh unto you, this is by way of paraphraſe, if you love God he will love you, if you fear God he will defend you, if you are willing to turn from your evil ways God will be willing to receive you: he deſires not the death of a ſinner; if you are not ſaved it isyour own fault, and indeed this text comprehends a great deal of comfort, it brings glad tidings to a wretched ſinner, it ſpeaks peace to all: thus far by way of exhortation. 2dly, What your duty to God is, Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man, Ecc. xii. 3. There you ſee your duty, Fear God, and keep his commandments; fear to offend God and be careful to keep his commandments and that is your duty comprehended in ſhort. Be careful to ſerve him, fearfulto offend him diligent tokeep, his laws, willing to keep his commandments, abide all his corrections with patience, murmur at none of his ways, live honeſtly, love all men, ſwear not, lie not, for the devil was a liar from the beginning, ſteal not cheat not, take not the Lord's name in vain, haveno other gods, covet not that which is another man's, love the Lord with your whole heart, fear him and praiſe his name, bridle your luſts and unruly paſſions, reſiſt the devil and he will fly from you, care not for the world and let your whole life be agreeable to God's word, ſuffer any thing for your religion, nay death itſelf, die daily unto ſin and live unto righteouſneſs, and in all things ſubmit to the will of God, draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh

unto you. I conclude this exhortation with theſe following precepts, which if you do follow, you will do well.

1. Fear to do any thing againſt that God whom you love and you will not love any thing againſt that God whom you fear.

2. Let your prayers be as frequent as your wants, and your thankſgiving as your bleſſings.

3. In the morning think what ye have to do, for which ask God's bleſſing; at night, of what ye have done, for which ask his forgiveneſs,

4. Take an exact account of your life, be not afraid to look upon the ſcore, but afraid to increaſe it; to deſpair becauſe aman is ſinful, is to be worſe becauſe he hath been bad.

5. Conſider the ſhortneſs of your life, and certainty of the judgment, the great reward for the good, and ſevere puniſhment for the wicked: therefore make even with heavenly repentance, at the end of every day, and ſo you ſhall have but one day to repent of before you die.

6. Do injury to none, for ſo by doing, you do but teach others to do injury to you.

7. Innocency will be your beſt guard, and your integrity will be a coat of mail to you, and he that dares to be wicked ſometimes for his advantage, will always be ſo if his intereſt require it.

If you love God, keep his commandments, for they are not grievous as I have found by experience, draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you.

Secondly, *Your Duty to your Mother.*

HOnour your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy

God giveth thee, is the fifth commandment of God; and again, Prov. xiii. 1. A wiſe ſon heareth his father's inſtructions, but a ſcorner heareth not rebuke; and again, Prov. vi. 20. My ſon keep thy fathers commandments, and forſake not the law of thy mother, Prov. iv. 10. Hear O my ſon, and receive my ſayings, and the years of thy life ſhall be many. Here you may ſee that duty to your parents is a commandment of God, with his promiſe, that thy days may be many. Solomon the wiſeſt man that ever was, or ever will be, in the next place gives you a character of a wiſe ſon, that is of a dutiful ſon, and of a ſcorner, that is of an undutiful ſon; the wiſe ſon hearkneth to his father's inſtruction, he willingly obeys, he ſighs and cries, Father I obey; when he is commanded to go he runs, when to make haſte he flies; but the ſcorner when he is rebuked is angry, and ready to fly in his fathers face, when commanded to go he hides himſelf, when to make haſte diſdains and ſcorns to be ſpoke to. Conſider my ſons what I have ſaid, and honour your mother, when I am in my cold grave. I give you this charge in the ſight of God who quickneth all things and before Chriſt Jeſus, who before Pontius Pilate, witneſſed a good confeſſion, that you keep this commandment without ſpot, 2 Tim. vi. 13. Remember what came of Abſalom's undutifulneſs, 2 Sam. xviii. 9. and by that take warning.

Thirdly, *Your Duty to one another.*

BEhold how good and pleaſant it is for brethren to dwell in unity, Pſal. cxxxviii. 1. My dear children let me admoniſh you, let there be no diviſion among you, live together as one fleſh, that in ſo doing you may pleaſe God, be a comfort to your mother,

be a good example to others, and for ever happy: remember the ill conſequences of Cain's hate to his brother Abel, Gen. iv. 8. Take warning by others harms and you will do well: while others ſtrive one againſt another do you ſtrive to do good one for another, while others are at variance, do you pray one for another, while others revile one another do you comfort one another; while others act the part of Cain, Gen. iv. 8. do you act the part of Joſeph, Gen. xvi 4.

Bear with each others infirmities, and either love the other as himſelf, then will you pleaſe God, and be bleſſed: mind what I have ſaid, and lay it up in your hearts, and God give his bleſſing to it. I am now going to my father, and muſt leave you. I have kept the faith, and I hope we ſhall one day meet face to face in heaven, where pleaſures flow in ſtreams, in the preſence of the Almighty, and joy for evermore, where we may freely take a turn in the golden ſtreets of Paradiſe, and ſing praiſe unto God for evermore, I have very little of worldly wealth to leave you, only this exhortation and my bleſſing. To God the Father, Son and Holy-ghoſt, be honour, glory and power for ever, and for ever. *My Children adieu.*

A Copy of verſes that he made upon himſelf not not long before his Death.

FOrbear fond man, and weep no more, 'tis vain,
When heaven decrees, 'tis folly to complain;
This worldly maſs is ſubject to decay,
And death and nature all thing muſt obey:
The bluſhing roſe ſmiles with the morning ſun,
Juſt then looks gay, now withers and is gone:
Th' unthinking brutes, with ſenſe alone poſſeſt,
Obey and haſten to their common reſt;

Nay this proud fabrick ſhall at leſt become,
That ill ſhap'd chaos which it iſſued from,
And primitive nothing ſhall to itſelf return;
Then why poor mortal doſt thou weep and cry,
Think what thou art, and be content to die.
Pardon my ſins almighty God I pray!
Forgive me all, then take me hence way;
Pity my ſorrow and relenting tears,
O let my cry come to thy gracious ears.
Appeaſe my conſcience, waſh my ſins away,
Remit my crimes, then ſtrike this houſe of clay,
Then my triumphant ſoul ſhall upwards fly,
And leave with joy this worldly vanity.

Some of his Godly Meditations.

1 NO creature under heaven can afford my ſoul any comfort only thou O Lord of eternal glory, only thou are the help of man, and the great phyſician of ſouls: thou bringeſt a man nigh unto death, and reſtores him to life again, that he may ſee his own weakneſs, and thy power; wherefore all love and praiſe be given unto thee, O God.

2. O God, I extol thy ſacred name tho' I am a wretched ſinner and therefore unfit and unable to praiſe thee, according to thy worthineſs, yet will I not ceaſe to give thee thanks, to the utmoſt of my ſtrength. I will declare thy juſtice and mercies and while I live I will praiſe thy name; I will always love, honour and obey thee, and at no time forget thy mercies.

3. As for a man he is nothing but duſt and aſhes, a ſhow of ſimple ſeed, and a ſlip of ſlender ſtrength, a bubble, a chaos of corruption, and branch of fading flowers, a frame of moſt frail fleſh, whoſe life is but a ſpan, and full of miſery.

5. O heavenly father, let me not forget my own frailty, but me conſider what I am, and always remem-

ber what I ſhould be, then ſhall I forget to love myſe
and long after the love of thee. I am made after t
image, though the falling from thy commandmer
hath ſoiled me ſore with ſin.

5. My ſins O Lord ly forth in plenty before t
face, I can turn no way but they purſue me, I wou
intreat thee to pardon them, but I dare not draw ne
unto thee for fear of them, conſider my neceſſi
moſt mighty God, and deliver me forthy dear ſonsſa

6. Altho' my ſins be as the ſands of the ſea, a
mine offences be more in number than the hairs of m
head, yet take thou not vengeance, O Lord, but
thou haſt many times ſhewed mercy, ſo now be gra
ous and forgive me, for I know tho' my ſins were
red as ſcarlet, yet thou canſt make them as white
ſnow: Therefore, O Lord, to thee be glory for ev
and ever.

7. I have hungred, O my God, to feed upon th
that art the bread of life, not with the jaws of m
fleſh, but with the mouth of my faith, until it ma
pleaſe thee to feed me at full with the entire conte
plation of thy ſubſtance, which I ſhall ſee face to fac
and alſo be in the celeſtial glory, when I am diſchar
edofthis houſe of clay, andmaſs of corruption this ho
is the harlour of my delight, and the end of all m
trouble. Haſten therefore, O Lord andſhake my gla
that the ſand of my life being ran out, I may li
with the ſouls of juſt men made perfect, where I ma
ſing praiſe to theeforevermoreworldwithoutend, ame

8. Moſt gracious God, give me to drink of th
water, that whoſo drinketh therefore, ſhall thirſt t
more after the ſweetneſs of heavenly things, who
taſte is unſpeakable pleaſant; and give me alſo to drin
of that water, that whoſo drinketh thereof ſhall thir
no more for ever, for it floweth from thee, the fou
tain of immortality. To thee, O Lord, all praiſe an
glory be.

FINIS.

Robert Lamp Ro